AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. – 3. (Cancelled).

4. (Previously Presented) A capillary array electrophoresis apparatus comprising:

a capillary array with a plurality of capillaries, said capillaries having sample injection top ends that are arranged in alignment;

a sample plate assembly including a sample plate having a plurality of wells for holding a sample, and an adapter for mounting the sample plate; and

an auto sampler which holds the sample plate assembly, is movable at least in a vertical direction and permits, when being moved upward, the sample injection top ends of the capillary array to immerse into the sample in the plurality of wells,

wherein the adapter is prepared for a plurality of kinds of sample plates having different shape, size and/or well depth so that center axes and bottom heights of the wells of the sample plate are adjusted to assume a predetermined position with respect to the auto sampler.

5. (Previously Presented) A capillary array electrophoresis apparatus comprising:

a capillary array with a plurality of capillaries, said capillaries having sample injection top ends that are arranged in alignment;

a sample plate assembly including a sample plate having a plurality of wells for holding a sample, and an adapter for mounting the sample plate; and

an auto sampler which holds the sample plate assembly, is movable at least in a vertical direction and permits, when being moved upward, the sample injection top ends of the capillary array to immerse into the sample in the plurality of wells,

wherein the adapter is prepared for a plurality of kinds of sample plates having different well depth so that bottom heights of the wells of the sample plate are adjusted to assume a predetermined position with respect to the auto sampler.

6. (Previously Presented) A capillary array electrophoresis apparatus comprising:

a capillary array with a plurality of capillaries, said capillaries having sample injection top ends that are arranged in alignment;

a sample plate assembly including a sample plate having a plurality of wells for holding a sample, and an adapter for mounting the sample plate; and

an auto sampler which holds the sample plate assembly, is movable at least in a vertical direction and permits, when being moved upward, the sample injection top ends of the capillary array to immerse into the sample in the plurality of wells,

wherein the adapter is prepared for a plurality of kinds of sample plates having a different number of wells so that center axes of the wells of the sample plate are adjusted to assume a predetermined position with respect to the auto sampler.

7. – 9. (Cancelled).

10. (Previously Presented) A capillary array electrophoresis apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the auto sampler includes a sensor which detects shape of the adapter and identifies the kind of the sample plate mounted on the adapter.

11. (Previously Presented) A capillary array electrophoresis apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the auto sampler includes a sensor which detects shape of the adapter and identifies the kind of the sample plate mounted on the adapter.

12. (Previously Presented) A capillary array electrophoresis apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the auto sampler includes a sensor which detects shape of the adapter and identifies the kind of the sample plate mounted on the adapter.

13. – 15. (Cancelled).

16. (Previously Presented) A capillary array electrophoresis apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the auto sampler includes a sensor which detects shape of the adapter and identifies the number of wells of the sample plate mounted on the adapter.

17. (Previously Presented) A capillary array electrophoresis apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the auto sampler includes a sensor which detects shape of the adapter and identifies the number of wells of the sample plate mounted on the adapter.

18. (Previously Presented) A capillary array electrophoresis apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the auto sampler includes a sensor which detects shape of the adapter and identifies the number of wells of the sample plate mounted on the adapter.

19. – 21. (Cancelled).

22. (Previously Presented) A capillary array electrophoresis apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the sample plate assembly includes a holder which is permitted to reform a deformed sample plate.

23. (Previously Presented) A capillary array electrophoresis apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the sample plate assembly includes a holder to reform a deformed sample plate.

24. (Previously Presented) A capillary array electrophoresis apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the sample plate assembly includes a holder to reform a deformed sample plate.

25. (Previously Presented) A capillary array electrophoresis apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the sample plate assembly includes a holder to secure the sample plate to the adapter.

26. (Previously Presented) A capillary array electrophoresis apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the sample plate assembly includes a holder to secure the sample plate to the adapter.

27. (Previously Presented) A capillary array electrophoresis apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the sample plate assembly includes a holder to secure the sample plate to the adapter.